



Michigan Business Aviation Association

Statement of Roger Salo
Director, Michigan Business Aviation Association
May 14, 2014

Senator Jack Brandenburg and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Michigan Business Aviation Association (MBAA) we commend you for taking the lead on aviation funding.

MBAA was founded 16 years ago with the purpose of furthering efforts to maintain and improve airport infrastructure throughout Michigan. One of our primary goals is to find a permanent funding source for Michigan's airport infrastructure that will ensure Michigan continues to offer first-rate air transportation services to residents and job providers.

We represent business and general aviation airplane owners and operators, businesses, suppliers, aircraft repair stations, manufacturers, universities and aviation enthusiasts throughout the State of Michigan. Our members have one thing in common: they depend on general aviation aircraft to meet some of their most difficult transportation challenges in order to remain competitive in a global economy.

We fully support House Bills 4571 and 4572, as they are before you today. These bills go a long way in providing stability and a consistent funding stream needed to protect the future of aviation in our great state. These bills will ensure that taxed revenue for aviation fuel will go toward supporting aviation and return to us to the concept of a user fee for aviation funding.

As such, it is appropriate that these bills propose using tax dollars generated by owners, operators and users of general aviation aircraft to improve the safety, efficiency and preservation of the state's aviation infrastructure. Without a source of funding identified for the future, there could be a significant reduction in aviation services in our communities and a degradation of facilities and equipment at our local airports. Poor infrastructure does not support Michigan businesses that want to grow, nor is it an incentive to bring new business to Michigan. As you know, we cannot have potholes on runways.

Please vote House Bill's 4571 and 4572 from committee and just as you are working to improve road funding, these bills will vastly improve funding for aviation.

We thank you again for all your efforts; remember...*One mile of road takes you one mile; one mile of runway takes you to the world!*